#### CHAPTER 214

# **GOVERNMENT - STATE**

#### SENATE BILL 18-158

BY SENATOR(S) Coram and Garcia, Aguilar, Cooke, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Jahn, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger,

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Duran and Catlin, Becker K., Bridges, Coleman, Danielson, Esgar, Exum, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lee, Lontine, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Pabon, Pettersen, Roberts, Rosenthal, Salazar, Singer, Valdez, Weissman, Wilson, Winter, Young.

### AN ACT

CONCERNING MEASURES TO INCREASE SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCESS TO INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE SCHOOL SAFETY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 21 to article 33.5 of title 24 as follows:

#### PART 21 SCHOOL ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT PROGRAM

**24-33.5-2101. Short title.** The short title of this part 21 is the "School Access For Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program Act".

**24-33.5-2102.** Legislative declaration. (1) The General assembly finds that:

- (a) In 2008, the general assembly passed Senate Bill 08-181 calling for the improvement of coordination among agencies when responding to school incidents;
- (b) IN 2011, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSED ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION, SENATE BILL 11-173, CONCERNING THE INTEROPERABILITY OF COMMUNICATIONS IN

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

SCHOOLS;

- (c) While progress has been made in coordination, interoperability continues to be an issue due to lack of funding for needed hardware, software, and training to allow for seamless communications between existing school district communication systems and first responder communication systems;
- (d) The use of interoperable technology would enable schools and school district stakeholders to communicate across the district and with public safety over existing independent networks during an emergency;
- (e) It is necessary to create a program to leverage the public safety radios system serving the region, including but not limited to the state's digital trunked network, which is a standards-based first responder communications system in place statewide, along with other communications networks, and to expand the infrastructure by allowing direct communication from school radios and other communications devices to first responder radios and other communications devices to improve interoperability;
- (f) An adaptable system can connect any school's existing radio equipment to the radio of a first responder. In addition, the connection can be switched on and off immediately by public safety personnel and system administrators.
- (g) Public safety officials and system administrators must have the ability to enable and disable the interoperable technology;
- (h) Going beyond the critical 911 call, it is important to use any available and proven technology that enables emergency services personnel and school officials to communicate in real-time during an incident; and
- (i) This interoperable technology is not to be used by schools for day-to-day operations on the public safety communications network.
- (2) The general assembly further finds that the purpose of this part 21 is to create the school access for emergency response grant program to provide schools and public safety communications networks with money for needed hardware, software, and training so that when an emergency happens, dispatchers can activate the technology over both the radio system and other communications networks, trained school-safety teams can connect on the radio and other communications devices across the district, and first responders can arrive on the scene informed with the most up-to-date information.
- **24-33.5-2103. Definitions.** As used in this part 21, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Crisis management plan" means a plan including tactical strategies and actions for responding to an emergency.
  - (2) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.
- (3) "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1603.
- (4) "Fund" means the school access for emergency response grant program cash fund created in section 24-33.5-2107.
- (5) "Grant program" means the school access for emergency response grant program created in this part 21.
- (6) "Interoperability" means the ability of one or more radio systems to communicate with another radio system and other communications devices.
- (7) "Interoperable technology" means software and hardware that enables two different radio systems and other communications devices to communicate.
- (8) "Memorandum of understanding" means an agreement between two or more parties that is not legally binding to formalize a working relationship.
- (9) "Other communications network" means any public or private wire or wireless communications network that allows for real-time voice or data communications between a public safety 911 answering point, schools, and first responders.
- (10) "Public safety 911 answering point" has the same meaning as defined in section 29-11-101 (6.5).
  - (11) "RADIO SYSTEM" MEANS A PRIVATE NETWORK FOR VOICE COMMUNICATIONS.
- (12) "Safety team" means personnel who have a role in crisis management plans.
- (13) "School" means a school district, public school within a school district, charter school authorized by a school district pursuant to part 1 of article 30.5 of title 22, charter school authorized by the state charter school institute pursuant to part 5 of article 30.5 of title 22, or board of cooperative services created and operating pursuant to article 5 of title 22 that operates one or more public schools.
- (14) "Standards based" means radio specifications defined by a national association of the telecommunications industry that every manufacturer can follow to implement equipment interoperability.

## 24-33.5-2104. School access for emergency response grant program - created

- rules. (1) There is hereby created in the department in the division of homeland security and emergency management the school access for emergency response grant program to provide grants to schools and public safety communications system owners to provide funding for needed interoperable communication hardware, software, equipment maintenance, and training to allow for seamless communications between new or existing school communications systems and first responder communications systems.
- (2) Grant recipients may use the money received through the grant program for the following purposes:
- (a) To deliver training programs to teach district-based security personnel and appropriate school personnel basic procedures for effective communications with first responders in an emergency;
- (b) To implement an interoperable technology solution to provide or to upgrade the following:
- (I) A system or technology that can be activated and deactivated by the public safety 911 answering point, the network administrator, and the school over both the radio system and other communications networks;
- (II) Radio and other technology bridge ability that is nonradio vendor specific for connecting independent school networks across the school district and public safety networks in the region; and
- (III) AN INTEROPERABILITY SOLUTION THAT OPERATES OVER RADIO NETWORKS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS;
- (c) To maintain or improve a school's existing interoperable communication hardware or software or to provide interoperable communication hardware and software to a school that does not yet have it; and
- (d) For any necessary radio system capacity expansions where school loading has been determined to have a significant impact on public safety system loading.
- (3) The division of homeland security and emergency management shall administer the grant program and, subject to available appropriations, shall award grants as provided in this part 21. Subject to available appropriations, grants shall be paid out of the fund created in section 24-33.5-2107.
- (4) The director or the director's designee, in consultation with the grant selection committee created in subsection (5) of this section, shall implement the grant program in accordance with this part 21. Pursuant to article 4 of this title 24, the director or the director's designee shall promulgate such rules as are required in this part 21 and such additional

RULES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM. AT A MINIMUM, THE RULES MUST SPECIFY THE TIME FRAMES FOR APPLYING FOR GRANTS, THE FORM OF THE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION, AND THE TIME FRAMES FOR DISTRIBUTING GRANT MONEY.

- (5) There is hereby created the grant selection committee to work with the director or the director's designee to determine whether a grant applicant satisfies the criteria to receive a grant. The committee shall be composed of seven members appointed as specified in this subsection (5). The members of the committee shall serve without compensation; except that committee members shall not suffer any loss of salary while participating in the activities of the committee. Members of the committee shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the director or the director's designee to accomplish the work of the committee. Members of the committee shall be appointed on or before June 1, 2018, as follows:
- (a) THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER SHALL APPOINT ONE EMPLOYEE FROM THE OFFICE;
- (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one person who represents urban or suburban school districts with interoperability experience in accordance with the school response framework;
- (c) The president of the senate shall appoint one person who represents rural school districts with interoperability experience in accordance with the school response framework;
- (d) The minority leader of the house of representatives shall appoint one person who represents the chiefs of police with interoperability experience in accordance with the school response framework;
- (e) The minority leader of the senate shall appoint one person who represents county sheriffs with interoperability experience in accordance with the school response framework; and
- (f) The director of the department of public safety shall appoint two employees from the department of public safety.
- **24-33.5-2105. Grant program application criteria awards.** (1) A school is required to have a memorandum of understanding with its regional public safety 911 answering point or the local law enforcement agency or agencies that serve the school for communications interoperability to be eligible to apply for a grant. To receive a grant, a school must submit an application to the division of homeland security and emergency management in accordance with rules promulgated by the director. At a minimum, the application must include the following information:
- (a) A DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL'S CURRENT INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, IF ANY;

- (b) A SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE COLORADO SCHOOL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-32-109.1 (4) or 22-30.5-503.5;
- (c) A description of efforts that the school has taken to coordinate emergency communication with law enforcement, 911 system administrators, and other schools; and
- (d) A description of the purpose for which the school would plan to use the grant money, including the proposed training program, joint exercise plan, and interoperability technology solution.
- (2) The grant selection committee created in Section 24-33.5-2104 (5) SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. IN AWARDING GRANTS, THE GRANT SELECTION COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:
- (a) The extent to which the school is fully compliant with the Colorado school response framework pursuant to section 22-32-109.1(4) or 22-30.5-503.5; and
- (b) Whether the school has a crisis management plan in place with safety team members designated for communications with first responders.
- (3) Subject to available appropriations, on or before December 31, 2018, and on or before September 1 each year thereafter for the duration of the grant program, the director or the director's designee shall award grants as provided in this part 21. The director or the director's designee shall distribute the grant money within thirty days after the grants are awarded.
- **24-33.5-2106. Reporting requirements.** (1) On or before January 15,2020, and on or before January 15 each year thereafter for the duration of the grant program, each school that receives a grant through the grant program shall submit a report to the division of homeland security and emergency management. At a minimum, the report must include the following information:
- (a) THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS THAT USED GRANT MONEY TO PROVIDE TRAINING PROGRAMS TO APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL REGARDING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH FIRST RESPONDERS IN AN EMERGENCY;
- (b) The number of schools that used grant money to provide or upgrade its interoperable technology, including interoperable communication hardware or software; and
- (c) The total number of students enrolled in the schools that received grant money.
- (2) On or before January 15, 2019, and on or before January 15 each year thereafter for the duration of the grant program, the department

Shall include a summarized report of the activities of the grant program in the department's annual presentation to the applicable committee of reference pursuant to section 2-7-203.

- (3) Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), the reporting requirements set forth in this section continue until the grant program repeals pursuant to section 24-33.5-2108.
- **24-33.5-2107.** School access for emergency response grant program cash fund. (1) (a) The school access for emergency response grant program cash fund is hereby created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money transferred to the fund pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate to the fund.
- (b) On July 1, 2018, and each July 1 thereafter through July 1, 2023, the state treasurer shall transfer five million dollars to the fund from the state public school fund created in section 22-54-114.
- (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND TO THE FUND.
- (3) Subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly, the department may expend money from the fund for the purpose of awarding grants to schools or public safety communications network owners pursuant to this part 21. The department may use up to three percent of the money annually appropriated for the grant program to pay the direct and indirect costs that it incurs to administer the grant program.
- (4) The state treasurer shall transfer all unexpended and unencumbered money in the fund to the general fund after the grant program repeals pursuant to section 24-33.5-2108.
- **24-33.5-2108. Repeal of part.** This part 21 is repealed, effective July 1, 2024.
- **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2018-19 state fiscal year, \$5,000,000 is appropriated to the department of public safety for use by the office of preparedness. This appropriation is from the school access for emergency response grant program cash fund created in section 24-33.5-2107 (1)(a), C.R.S. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation as follows:
- (a) \$142,646 for program administration, which amount is based on an assumption that the office will require an additional 2.3 FTE; and
  - (b) \$4,857,354 for the school access for emergency response grant program.

**SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 16, 2018